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believe, just because someone thinks we ought to do it another way, not until we have the proof.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler, you may continue.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I was interested in your last remark. Are you indicating that maybe they will both have brands and be electronically imprinted?

SENATOR DIERKS: I would bet that that's the way that it happens for awhile until...the people, the ranchers that I know, who have used the brand, the hot iron brand method, will continue to do that. Even...even if they try to use the implanted chip in the ear, I think my guess is they will continue...they would use both for awhile to make sure that...because they know the one way works. I think that both would be utilized. It took some time before we got the ability to use freeze brand as an ownership brand. That's just something we had happen through this legislative body about two years ago, and a lot of people prefer to use the freeze brand. And I think there is a lot of reasons for that. If you do a good job with it, anybody can read it. Sometimes those hot iron brands, after seven or eight or ten or twelve years, hair over and it's a little bit difficult to read. Sometimes they don't put them on very well, but the same thing can happen with a freeze brand. So we're pretty comfortable right now up in our country with either the freeze brand or the hot iron brand.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, part of my concern, Senator Dierks, is that before the traditional practice of branding disappears, I would like to personally experience that once some time on a ranch. So if you would invite me out someday, I...

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, there's a... standing invitation. We'll be doing our roping in April, and you're welcome to come up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: (Laugh) Okay, thank you.

SENATOR DIERKS: You bet.